

Remarks / Arguments

By the above amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentably over prior art.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 102

Claim 23 is amended with “to be contoured for being worn by the vehicle occupant selectively inside and outside a vehicle”. Claim 23 text is changed to distinctly claim “worn by the vehicle occupant selectively inside and outside a vehicle”. Zufle teaches an armoring system attached to a vehicle but does not teach in any way attaching to the individual nor a configuration allowing the individual to wear the armor outside the vehicle. Applicant teaches throughout the Specification that and Figures configurations and advantages for allowing the vehicle operator to wear the armor system inside and outside the vehicle.

Claim 23 is further amended to include “comprising at least one front ballistic plate and rear ballistic plate” since Zufle teaches on a back plate. Claim 23 also has text added to indicate that the load transfer point on the vehicle “substantially all weight thereof directly to the vehicle through a vehicle seat or at least one load transfer point on the vehicle by the rear ballistic plate on the seat or on the load transfer point of the vehicle.”

For the above reasons, when compared to prior art, Applicant should overcome the USC 102 rejection.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103

Zufle teaches a soft armoring system applied to and attached to the surface of a vehicle seat. There is no load transfer mechanism that takes the armor’s weight off of the vehicle operator since Zufle does not address the need to remove the armor load from the occupant. Zufle armor does not involve the vehicle occupant rather the armor and seat comprise the entire invention.

Zufle teaches soft body armor. By definition and through Zufle's teachings, soft armor is pliable and flexible. Soft body armor lacks the rigidity to support itself without attachments. Ballistic plates are hard armors, which have very little flexibility and therefore are capable to transfer loads without attachment points. Claim 23 specifically states that there must be at least one ballistic plate. This ballistic plate is instrumental for transferring system weight loads to the vehicle.

Zufle does not teach protecting the vehicle operator's front chest or rigidly attaching from the rear armor support armors to carry the load of front plate armor. Zufle relies on transferring loads through the attachment points not through the armor.

Bachner teaches a stitching for a basic soft body armor vest. Bachner does not address, teach, provide and indication of a problem or need for load transfer since his armor is light, soft armor.

Unrecognized Problem by Bachner Load transfer is an unrecognized problem by Bachner. Bachner Solves a Different Problem. Bachner solves a flexibility problem through a method of stitching soft armor together.

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection since prior art combining Zufle and Bachner:

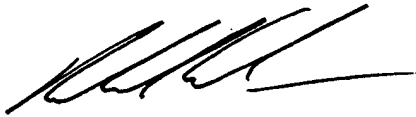
- (1) Does not recognize the problem applicant solves – load transfer,
- (2) Solves a different problems,
- (3) Requires unsuggested modifications- developing load transfer structural material that allows the vehicle occupant to exit the vehicle wearing the load structural material and armor and rapidly enter a different vehicle.
- (4) Requires modifications- using hard armors does not apply to Bachner and exiting the vehicle with the system does not apply to Zufle.

For the above reasons, when compared to prior art, Applicant should overcome the USC 103 rejection.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, applicant submits that the claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over prior art. Therefore Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action applicant respectfully requests.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kocher', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert W. Kocher

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